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## **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival**

**Presenting Sponsor: Bell Media**

### **Full Programming and Schedule for the 18th Annual Festival October 18-22, 2017**

The 18th Annual **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival** today announced the full programming for the Festival, running October 18-22, 2017 in Toronto, Canada. **imagineNATIVE** will present over 100 feature films, documentaries, shorts, and music videos created by Indigenous filmmakers with almost three quarters of the films (72%) made by Indigenous female directors.

**imagineNATIVE's** opening night gala on Wednesday, October 18 will be **Waru** a film directed by eight Māori women, telling the story of Waru, a young boy who dies at the hands of his caregiver. Each director tackles a ten-minute segment of **Waru** to create one complete, remarkable story through the lens of multiple family and community members as they deal with the horrific loss. On Sunday, October 22, the closing night gala will be **The Road Forward**, a musical documentary by Métis/Dene award-winning filmmaker, Marie Clements.

Highlights from **imagineNATIVE's** feature film programs include **Indictment: The Crimes of Shelly Chartier**, the true-crime story revolving around a captivating reclusive woman from a small northern Manitoba reserve whose catfishing of an NBA superstar made international headlines; **Sweet Country**, from director Warwick Thornton and starring Hamilton Morris and Sam Neill in a period western set on the Northern Territory frontier; **Juliana & the Medicine Fish**, starring Adam Beach and Emma Tremblay; **Our People Will Be Healed**, Alanis Obomsawin's 50th film; and **Kayak to Klemtu**, the first feature film by Zoe Hopkins.

**imagineNATIVE** will also include a diverse selection of short film programs including the return of **The Witching Hour**, the annual midnight horror/comedy series; **Receptors**, a series of experimental, dramatic, and documentary shorts; **Ambient Light**, shedding a light on the polar region with five shorts from Sweden, Greenland and North America; and **Channel 51 Igloodik**, celebrating 30 years of Inuit video art with a world premiere screening of **Bowhead Whale Hunting with My Ancestors** by **Carol Kunnuk** and **Zacharias Kunuk** – the first episode from the seven-part television series, **Hunting with my Ancestors**.

**imagineNATIVE** is also proud to announce that Cree actor, humanitarian and activist **Tina Keeper** will receive the 2017 August Schellenberg Award of Excellence. **Tina Keeper** will receive her award at the **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival's** Awards Presentation on Sunday, October 22 at the TIFF Bell Lightbox.

**imagineNATIVE** will present **A Wall is a Screen**, a nighttime event that is part-walking-tour and part-film-screening that transforms the way people look at and interact with their city by projecting short films onto various surfaces. This will be the first time ever **A Wall is a Screen** will feature all Indigenous-made short films.

**imagineNATIVE's** music showcase **The Beat**, co-presented by Revolutions Per Minute (RPM), returns with live performances from **Mob Bounce**, **Kayla Briët**, **Ziibiwan**, and **DJ Kookum**, and a screening of eight music videos by Indigenous filmmakers and musicians.

The **Digital Media Art+Cade**, sponsored by Rezolution Pictures/Schoolü, returns to **imagineNATIVE**

with projects including: **The Cache**, a digital photo essay from the Ammaaq family, who live north of the Arctic Circle; **Standing Rock: People and Pride**, an audio documentary by Kim Wheeler; **Coyote's Crazy Smart Science Show**, a video game testing the mental might of the player; **Impossible to Contain**, a 360 video doc about the aftermath of a diesel spill in the waters of Bella Bella, BC; **Purity & Decay**, a video game utilizing the popular Telltale adventure game style; **Thunderbird Strike**, a 2D sidescroller game with the player flying from the Tar Sands to the Great Lakes as a thunderbird protecting Turtle Island; **He Ao Kotahi**, a web series featuring Māori artists in Palestine; and **XINONA**, a digital animation essay set in an alternative universe where planets are made of kale, kombucha and beer.

**imagineNATIVE's Art Crawl** will include three different locations, showcasing eight exhibitions at seven different galleries. This year's **Art Crawl** will begin at OCADU with two exhibitions: **For This Land: Inside Elemental** and **raise a flag: works from the Indigenous Art Collection (2000–2015)**. The **Art Crawl** will then move to the 401 Richmond building with five Exhibition Premieres including: **Mourning and Mayhem: The work of Adrian Stimson** at A Space Gallery; **Channel 51: Igloolik – The Filmmaking Process**, at Trinity Square Video; **Skawennati: for the ages**, at The Commons; **Territ-Aur(i)al Imprints** at Prefix Gallery; and **Raven Chacon: Report** at YYZ Artists' Outlet. The evening will end with **Installation Preview: Transmissions Part II** at Wallace Studios, a behind-the-scenes preview of filmmaker Lisa Jackson's first art exhibition *Transmissions*, as well as watching the filming of *Unearthed*, a live performance that will be a centrepiece of the installation.

**imagineNATIVE's FREE Industry Series**, presented by CBC and CBC Docs, returns with leading professionals from around the world teaching and discussing topics relevant to Indigenous media creators. The **Industry Series** running October 19 to 21 will open with a launch and details of the new imagineNATIVE Institute, panels including topics surrounding Indigenous protocols in film and media, the first ever Web Series pitch competition, networking events, and a Sound Design Masterclass with Māori artist Dave Whitehead, with credits on major motion pictures and shows including District 9, The Hobbit, Arrival and Netflix's Okja.

The full schedule for the 18th Annual **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival** is now available online at [imaginenative.org/calendar](http://imaginenative.org/calendar).

### **imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival**

October 18-22, 2017

Tickets for regular screening are \$6!

Tickets On Sale Now

Call - TIFF Box Office on 416-599-TIFF (8433)

Online - [TIFF Festival Partners and Third Party Events](#)

In Person - TIFF Box Office at 350 King St W, Toronto, ON

For more information please call 416.585.2333 or visit [www.imagineNATIVE.org](http://www.imagineNATIVE.org)  
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**The imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival** is the world's largest Indigenous festival showcasing innovation in film, video, audio and digital media. The Festival presents the most compelling and distinctive works from Canada and around the globe, reflecting the diversity of the world's Indigenous nations and illustrating the vitality and excellence of Native art and culture in contemporary media.